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**Anna Hummingbirds:** The question as to the date when Anna Hummingbirds begin their tower and dive flight might better be reversed. At what date do they refrain from such flights?

On May 9, 1930, I was watching with a group of friends two young Anna Hummers, not many days out of the nest. They were much interested in a clump of flax (the flax of commerce) and also incidentally in us. They perched within four feet of us, darted within a few inches of our heads, and towered and dove to their hearts' content. The only apparent difference between their flight and that of adults was the omission of the explosive whistle at the bottom of the arc.

Whether both birds were males, we could not determine; both showed tiny flecks of iridescence on the throat. But they were equally enthusiastic in their gymnastic exercises. They were apparently having their first fling; independent of their mother, but still enjoying each other's company. Amelia S. Allen, Berkeley, California, July 8, 1930.



**Western Tanagers:** On May 25th, while birding in Grizzly Canyon, near Moraga, we observed a male Western Tanager. Again on June 15th and 22nd, the same bird apparently was there for one was again seen. On the 29th, in the same elderberry bush, there appeared a male and female Tanager with two young ones, which the female fed. This, I believe, is an unusual nesting record for Contra Costa County. C. R. Thomas, Berkeley, California, July 16, 1930.



**Sacramento Valley:** In the Sacramento Valley, one possesses exceptional opportunities for observation of wild life. The marshlands, woodlands and Sierra slopes offer widely varying conditions.

Bird-life in the marshes seems particularly abundant this season. I was somewhat elated one afternoon during a three-hour cruise in my car through the rice fields near Nelson, in the southern part of Butte County, to be able to identify twenty species, as follows:

Many Great Blue Herons, American Egrets, Black Terns, Meadowlarks, Barn Swallows, Western Crows and Brewer Blackbirds, a few Forster Terns, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds and English Sparrows, 4 Anthony Green Herons, 12 Black-crowned Night Herons, 2 Coots, 2 Kingfishers, 8 Black-necked Stilts, 4 Yellow-billed Magpies, 4 Desert Sparrow Hawks, 1 Black Phoebe, 11 Mourning Doves and 8 Western Kingbirds.

A few days ago I journeyed through the rice lands at dawn. The picture of solitary Egret Herons gleaning their breakfast here and there over the landscape, their immaculate snow white forms contrasting strongly against the dark green of the rice paddies was a strangely exotic spectacle that reminded me all the world of some ancient Japanese panel. O. W. Bauer, Chico, California, July 20, 1930.

## Field Observations at Las Posadas Camp, Howell Mt., Napa County, California

The first State park in California, comprising about 800 acres, was recently given to the State by Mr. and Mrs. Anson S. Blake of El Cerrito, California, to be used for scientific study, owing to the fact that trees, flora and birds of three distinct zones are found here.

This is the summer camp of the 4-H Clubs of six counties and it was here that Mr. E. L. Bickford, of Napa, California, assisted by myself, as Nature Guide for the clubs, made the following observations of birds on June 27, 1930:

Valley Quail, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Woodpecker, Red-shafted Flicker, Wood Pewee, Western Flycatcher, California Jay, Purple Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Cassin Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Vigors' Wren, Creeper, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Titmouse, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Hermit Thrush and Robin.

A house wren's nest was seen high in a hollow lip in a madrone tree.

On June 17th, a nest with five young Bush-tits was found, about five feet from the ground, in a ceanothus bush.

On June 18th, an adult Harris Woodpecker was seen going up a pine tree picking bugs from the bark and feeding a young one as large as itself. They worked up the trunk of the tree for about fifteen or twenty minutes, the adult chattering and the youngster making a great fuss over the bugs.

June 24th, a Hermit Thrush was seen on a nest about eight feet from the ground, in the lowest branches of a young Douglas fir. On the 25th, she was gone all day, so I stood on a box and looked in the nest and found one beautiful blue egg. On the 26th, she was on the nest most of the day until evening, and I found she had laid another egg. I did not see her again up to the time we left camp on the 29th. The nest was across the path from the little building we used for a hospital, library and nature study exhibit, so we probably frightened her away.

June 25th, a nest with three very young Western Flycatchers was seen about four feet from the ground, in a hazelnut bush, and on the 26th, another with three young ones was found about three feet above the ground, in the bank on the upper side of the road.

We also found two empty Cassin Vireo nests; one had no white empty spider cocoon cases on the outside; the other had two.

Two large empty nests resembling Band-tailed Pigeon nests, made of loose coarse sticks and about a foot in diameter were found; one about twenty feet above the ground on top of a dead stump; the other about twenty feet above the ground in a tree.

On May 25th, the following birds were observed at this place by F. A. Randall of Napa, California: Willow Downy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Oregon Junco, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow Warbler, California Thrasher and Western Bluebirds, making a list of thirty-six birds. Amy Rinehart, Oakland, California, July 17, 1930.



**Anna and Allen Hummingbirds:** At Crescent Meadows, Sequoia National Park, a Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius ruber*, was observed drilling holes in the tender stalks of willows. Here, too, came the Anna and Allen Hummingbirds together with a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets to partake of the feast provided by the Sapsucker. There was a continuous battle between the Allen and Anna Hummers over the sap gathering on the stalks, and every time an Anna Hummer attempted to help himself to it, an Allen Hummer immediately chased him away. This performance was observed for several days from July 26th to 31st. Laura A. Stephens, San Francisco, California, August 28, 1930.

## Audubon Notes

**September Meeting** will be held Thursday, the 11th, at 8 P. M., room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Dudley S. DeGroot. Subject: "Bird Life on the Islands off the Coast of Lower California."



**September Field Trip** will be taken Sunday, the 14th, to Baumberg for the purpose of observing waders, shore birds and the early arrivals among the ducks.

San Francisco members will take Southern Pacific Ferry at 7:40 A. M. East Bay members will take train at First Street and Broadway, Oakland, at 8:15 A. M. Purchase round-trip ticket to Baumberg, 90c from San Francisco, about 75c from Oakland. Allow ample time to purchase ticket before boarding train. Bring luncheon and canteens.



**August Meeting:** The 163rd regular meeting was held August 14th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-six members and guests present. President Cain presiding.

Miss Elizabeth H. Holden, of Berkeley, California, was elected to membership.

Hon. James D. Phelan, a life member, passed away August 7th.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Mrs. C. R. Thomas: August 3rd, Mussel Rock, Wandering Tattlers.

Mrs. A. B. Stephens: August 3rd, Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Mallard with nine ducklings a few days old. August 8th: same lake, a pair of Ruddy Ducks with five young ones.

President Cain spoke of the publication of the second number of Nature Study entitled "Birds." This number may be secured from Western Nature Study, San Jose State College, San Jose, California, for twenty-five cents. A few of the subjects treated of in this interesting number are: "The Homes

of Birds," "The Home Life of Birds," "Bird Adaptations," etc.

Mr. Lastreto introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. E. R. Zion, who spoke on "Fifty Years' Observation of Bird Life in California, by a Hunter and Fisherman."



**Henry Wetherbee Henshaw**, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey from June 1, 1910, to December 1, 1916, died in Washington, D. C., on August 1st, at the age of 80 years.

Because of his early interest in ornithology, Mr. Henshaw was appointed as a naturalist on the Wheeler Survey of the West from 1872 to 1879. Through these years he made extensive collections of birds, in sections some of which had never before been traversed by a white man. These specimens now form part of the collections of the United States National Museum at Washington and of the British Museum at London.

Mr. Henshaw was a fellow and twice vice-president of the American Ornithologists' Union, a founder and charter member of the Cosmos Club, a member of several other scientific societies of Washington, editor of the American Anthropologist and one of the founders of the Nuttall Ornithologists' Union.

His outstanding contributions to the department, according to Biological Survey officials, were his emphasis of the economic side of the work and a popularization of information on birds. His efforts led to the publication in 1913 of Farmers' Bulletin 513, which contained descriptions and illustrations in color by Fuertes of 50 common birds of farm and garden, one of the best known and most popular bulletins of the department.

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**The Association's August Trip** was made Sunday, the 17th, to Tennessee Cove. The morning was foggy, but from the very start sunlight could be seen on the Marin side, and the whole day there was sunny. A strong wind

blew from the coast, making the day cool, and observation a little trying.

On the marshes about Manzanita half a dozen Clapper Rails were found and in addition a nest. Hudsonian Curlews in twos were probing the beach.

Half way to the coast, Gnatcatchers were found singing in an oak close to the road and at about the same time a Duck Hawk was sighted.

After luncheon two of the members, following a willow cañon away from the road, found a Traill Flycatcher, which was identified by his habit of keeping close under the willows and by his occasional "whit." Later, on the way back from the coast, nearly the whole party, sitting on the bank opposite the Tennessee Valley Dairy, watched another Traill Flycatcher. This spot, always frequented by a variety of birds, this time yielded four flycatchers; the Wood Pewee, the Black Phoebe, and the Western Flycatcher, in addition to the Traill. The latter was observed for a long time, always keeping under the willows except when flying out a few feet occasionally for an insect. Even when visible it was usually in partial shade and it never sat still for a minute; its "whit" was heard once.

Three Barn Owls were found by some of the party in the clump of willows nearest the coast.

On the bay on the return trip while most of the party were scattered over the crowded boat wherever there were seats, a few, standing at the bow, were rewarded by the sight of an Osprey.

Birds observed were:

Brown Pelican; Farallon Cormorant; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; Pintail and Ruddy

Ducks; Turkey Vulture; Cooper and Red-Tailed Hawks; Osprey; Duck and Sparrow Hawks; California Quail; Clapper Rail; Killdeer; Hudsonian Curlew; Least and Western Sandpipers; Northern Phalarope; Western, California and Heermann Gulls; Caspian Tern; Murre; Barn Owl; Anna and Allen Hummingbirds; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Traill and Western Flycatchers; Western Wood Pewee; Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Steller and California Jays; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Titmouse; Bush-tit; Wren-tit; Bewick Wren; Robin; Russet-backed Thrush; Mexican Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Warbling and Hutton Vireos; Yellow-throat; Yellow and Pileolated Warblers; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer Blackbirds; House Sparrow; Purple Finch; Linnet; Pine Siskin; American and Arkansas Goldfinches; Spotted and Brown Towhees; Savannah, Lark, Nuttall, Gambel and Song Sparrows. Seventy species.

Members present: Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas; Mesdames Kraus, Persons, Pitman, Otis H. Smith; Misses Ames, Ayres, Cockefair, Cohen, Kautz, Kirsch, Pettit; Messrs. Bickford, Gordan Bolander, Bryant, de Fremery, Entriken, Hawkins, Hopkins, Jencks, Lockerbie, Myer, Clarence F. Smith, Jas. S. Smith, Swanton, Webb.

Guests: Misses Beard, Cahill, Kautz, O'Connell, Rhoades; Messrs. Robert Bickford, Hein, Gambarasi, Haughn, F. M. Randall, Wm. Randall, Schwoob, Sigwart, Vasconsellas.

Twenty-nine members and fourteen guests. F. M. Jencks, historian.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and Protection of Birds

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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.